

# ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

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## Archbishop Hits South African Migrant Labour System

(Cape Town, South Africa) - South Africa's system of migratory labour which involves the separation of husbands and wives is "devilish" and must be resisted by all Christians, according to Dr. Joost de Blank, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town.

Under the present Native Urban Areas Act, African women cannot enter urban areas without an official certificate, which means that families are broken up when husbands leave the reserves to work in the cities. It is possible for wives to get certificates only after their husbands have worked in an urban area for at least two years. The permits can be cancelled on a month's notice.

"The fight is now on," Dr. de Blank said. "Christian people everywhere are bound by virtue of their faith to fight the evils of a migrant labour force. We can no longer tolerate a state of affairs where family units are deliberately broken up by government decree."

"The family is the basic Christian unit - in truth, not a Christian unit only, but a natural, biological unit - and anyone who of set purpose wrecks the family is fighting against God. Christians have to withstand the enemies of God's law by every legitimate means."



arise in which men are absolutely forced to be 'obstinate' and to refuse certain demands made by you to involve the Church in political action, then we are convinced that they do so in order to protect interests which no true Protestant church can relinquish."

The Scandinavian primates go on to explain the way the state plays a part in the appointment of bishops in their countries, and say that their first letter did not refer to the policy of ecclesiastical appointments in Hungary but to "the way in which bishops who uphold the freedom of the churches in their dealings with the Hungarian state are down-graded or dismissed".

The four leaders conclude by urging Mr. Horvath to "do everything possible to remove abuses and create conditions that enable the true servants of the Church to do their work without hindrance".

E.P.S., Geneva

#### "Keep Military and Economic Aid Separate" Says US Church Leader

(Washington, D.C.) - Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, president of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, has urged that the US government should entirely separate its programmes of economic and military aid to other countries. He spoke on behalf of the Council before a conference in Washington on the Foreign Aspects of US National Security, also addressed by leading United States political figures.

Declaring that of \$3,766,000,000 appropriated for aid abroad in 1956-57, only \$402,000,000 was used for economic development and technical cooperation, Dr. Dahlberg said the rest was used for military and defence purposes.

He asked for technical and economic assistance to "be completely disentangled from the military programme, so that there can be an absolutely honest and accurate understanding of what we are doing".

The national church leader put forward a five-point plan for improving foreign aid. It called for increase in economic assistance abroad, a restatement of objectives to emphasize "not so much what we are against as what we stand for", separation of military and economic items, greater use of the United Nations, and stress on "self-help" in the administration of the aid by receiving countries.

E.P.S., Geneva

#### Hungarian Reformed Church in USA Changes Name

(Trenton, New Jersey) - The recently held sixth assembly of the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America has changed the church's name to the Hungarian Reformed Church in America, and given its presiding minister the title of bishop.

The replacement of the former title "archdean" by that of "bishop" follows the custom of the mother church in Hungary, which has had bishops since the Reformation. They are administrative officers without superior spiritual authority over other ministers. The bishop is always elected together with a chief elder, and this pattern of dual presidency is repeated at the level of the "classis" (presbytery) and congregation.

The newly elected and installed bishop, the Rt. Rev. Zoltan Beky of Trenton, New Jersey, was born in Hungary in 1903, and has been in America since 1929. The church was received as a member of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA during 1957.

E.P.S., Geneva



Christian Council Formed in Okinawa

(Okinawa) - The Okinawa Christian Council was formed in February to include delegates of the United Church of Christ of Okinawa, the Episcopal (Anglican) Church, the Baptist churches, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Holiness Church.

At the inaugural assembly, which also included representatives of the Okinawa Bible Society, the Okinawa Missionary Council and Church World Service, twenty-five delegates approved a constitution and office bearers.

Pastor Choshe Nakazate, Moderator of the Okinawa United Church, is president of the new cooperative body, which aims to further united action in areas of common concern in the Ryukyu Islands and to share in ecumenical and international meetings.

The first meeting heard greetings from the director of the Education Department of the government of the Ryukyu Islands and from the National Christian Council of Japan.

E.P.S., Geneva

Dynamite Attack on Woman Missionary in Colombia

(Bogota) - A charge of dynamite exploded in a house in Supia, Caldas, Colombia, in the early hours of Sunday morning, February 9, close to where American missionary Miss Jennette E. Troyer was sleeping. She and a Colombian woman and child in the same room were unharmed, but the house was damaged.

According to the Information Office of the Evangelical Federation of Colombia, the explosion which threatened Miss Troyer, who is from Chippawa Falls, Wisconsin, and works with the Gospel Missionary Union, was preceded by a campaign aimed against her by the local Roman Catholic priest.

The missionary had been compelled to vacate a rented house and take shelter with a friend in the house where the explosion occurred.

The Rev. Eduardo Ospina, S.J., president of the Colombian National Secretariat for the Defence of the Faith, has denied that the local Roman Catholic priest was involved in the incident.

Promising that he would ascertain the true facts, Father Ospina declared, "I can say, a priori, that the Catholic priest at Supia did not preach violence. No Catholic priest is to be found in Colombia who is so ignorant and lacking in social and Christian morals as to instigate others to kill." E.P.S., Geneva

"Secular Baptism" in East Germany

(Berlin) - Local commissions in East Germany (DDR) are arranging "secular baptisms" to accompany registration of births.

The ceremonies are an experiment. According to the Communist press, "many citizens want to bring up their children as atheists. The new registration ceremony will make it possible for them to express their convictions. Parents will be able to make a solemn promise to bring up their children as human beings who will think and act in accordance with the principles of socialism."

Reports say there will be no objection to having sponsors like godparents. Representatives of the enterprises where parents work attend and bring presents.

E.P.S., Geneva



Germany Again in Need of Help from the World Council of Churches

(Stuttgart) - In 1957 over 400,000 people from the German Democratic Republic and the former German territories in Eastern Europe entered Western Germany. Since 1945 over 12 million refugees have poured into the Federal Republic.

These statistics are given in a statement published by the Social Work Council of the German Evangelical Church (EKD), the administrative organ of the "Inner Mission" and "Hilfswerk" since these two bodies amalgamated in 1957.

The stream of people, often destitute and mentally exhausted, is a burden for Germany, in spite of its economic recovery. The Social Council now plans to continue ecumenical relief work in Germany. "If the limited funds of the Division of Inter-Church Aid of the World Council are not required for areas where the distress is greater, the churches in Western Germany would in that case warmly welcome help from outside if it could be continued, so as to extend and improve what we have already done ourselves," states the Social Work Council.

Attention is also drawn to the problem of integrating stateless aliens still in Germany. The churches must do their utmost, according to the Council, to carry out the programme drawn up by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees gradually to close the refugee camps and to help the inmates to resume a normal life.

The Social Work Council of the EKD thanks the churches in the World Council for all the help they have given to Germany during the last twelve years in relieving the distress caused by the war and assisting refugees. E.P.S., Geneva

Recent News of the Bible in the World

(London) - Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh spent an hour and a half visiting the headquarters of the British and Foreign Bible Society on February 19.

The Queen, who is patron of the Society, was presented with a copy of the first edition the Society published for the mission field - the Gospel of St. John in Mohawk, and the Duke was given a copy of the new British and Foreign Bible Society Greek New Testament for students.

Lord Luke of Pavenham, a vice-president of the British and Foreign Bible Society, introduced officers and staff to the royal visitors.

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In India and Ceylon last year over 35,000 university students were given free copies of Gospels and Acts or the New Testament and the Psalms.

All new students and graduates can apply, and the project is increasing in popularity. Over 11,000 copies were distributed in 1955, and more than 15,000 in 1956.

Describing the size of the task of scripture distribution ahead of the church, the general secretary of the Bible Society of India and Ceylon, Mr. P. Mahanty, says in his annual report that the work can be done "only if the rank and file of the Church are enlisted". He reports that "during the whole of last year a Christian church with over six million members distributed only 1,175,000 scriptures. This was one measure," he continues, "of its efforts to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to a population of nearly 400 millions. We may well ask ourselves if we have an adequate appreciation of the gravity and urgency of the present situation."

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Complete Bibles have been published by the British and Foreign Bible Society in three new languages during 1957.

A Swedish missionary, Mrs. Winqvist, made the translation into Tigrinya for use in Eritrea. A translation into Ndau, a language used in Southern Rhodesia and Mozambique, was prepared in conjunction with the Swiss Bible Society by the Rev. C.J. Dotson. Miss R. Horton made the translation into Kamba for use in Kenya.

The year also saw the publication of complete New Testaments in four languages by the BFBS: Aranda, a Central Australian aboriginal tongue; Central Chuana, South Africa; Habbe, French Sudan; Kilega, Belgian Congo.

Individual books of the Bible appeared in seven new languages under the Society's auspices in 1957: four spoken in Africa, two in India and one in Taiwan (Formosa).  
E.P.S., Geneva

#### World Bodies Study Work with High School Youth

(Freidorf, Switzerland) - The necessity to understand the significance of recent demonstrations by teenagers in New York City, Stockholm and Eastern European countries was expressed by forty representatives of five world Christian bodies who last month surveyed their work with high school youth.

The Joint World Consultation on Work with Secondary School Youth was held at Freidorf, Switzerland, from February 17 - 20, and attended by representatives of the World Alliance of YMCAs, the World YWCA, the World's Student Christian Federation, the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches and the World Council of Christian Education.

In deciding to urge associations and member movements to note the importance of youth work and to consider holding joint consultations nationally, the Christian leaders pointed out that they had found "general agreement" on these points: Christian work among secondary school boys and girls is an essential part of the life and mission of the Church; and the aim of the work is to minister to their needs so they may confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

This includes, the report said, helping youth to recognise their place in the Church, to grow in discipleship, to express their discipleship and to find the meaning of Church membership in terms of responsible citizenship.

Turning to certain current specific needs, the consultation stressed the need to develop a common strategy "in crossing the ideological and political frontiers which so tragically divide mankind", and urged giving particular attention to places where secondary education leaves young people rootless in their own communities. The consultation also said it was necessary "to replace the older social vetos which no longer command the respect of young people with dynamic Christian ethics and morals rooted in a Christian interpretation of life".

Looking to the future, the consultation recommended that the World Christian Youth Commission regard the needs and opportunities of high school work as a field for special study and promotion during the next few years, and expressed the hope that someone can be designated to serve as secretary for the special project.  
E.P.S., Geneva



In Brief

Proposals for a measure of "limited intercommunion" between the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA and the Church of South India will be presented to the 1958 General Convention of the American church by its Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations. The proposals, which follow closely the recommendations already approved by the Church of England, follow the sending of a delegation to South India in 1956, and are described as "interim measures" looking forward to possible eventual full communion between Anglicans and the CSI.

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Dr. Theodore F. Adams of Richmond, Virginia, president of the Baptist World Alliance since 1955, will visit Colombia in mid-April to confer with evangelical leaders and government officials "in the interest of religious liberty".

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Eastern Orthodox Christians in Japan and Korea who are attached to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople will from now on be within the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America instead of that of Archbishop Theophylactos of Australia. The American archdiocese is geographically closer to the Far East. Archbishop Theophylactos is deeply engaged in providing pastoral facilities for Greek immigrants in Australia.

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The Australian Council for the World Council of Churches agreed at its annual meeting in February to urge its six member churches to help encourage non-Roman Catholic emigration to Australia.

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Pastor Michel Grenier, Swiss minister of a Lutheran church at Bussurel, in the district near Montbéliard, France, has been deported to Switzerland on charges that have not yet been officially announced. The Swiss press reports that he was alleged to be in touch with the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) in France.

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The second ecumenical festival for boys' church choirs will be held at Uppsala, Sweden, during the week after Easter. Three hundred singers from seven countries are expected.

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Professor Helmut Gollwitzer, well-known German theologian, is in Czechoslovakia, lecturing in the Protestant theological faculties of Prague and Bratislava.

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The Rev. Alan Brash, general secretary of the National Christian Council of New Zealand, and Inter-Church Aid secretary of the recently formed East Asia Christian Conference, has reported on the missionary situation in Indonesia. "Until now," he says, "no Dutch missionary serving with the major churches has left because of the present crisis, and for those planning to go on furlough re-entry permits are available. In fact, 'permanent entry' permits are still being issued to Dutch missionaries entering the country for the first time."

\* \*

A new church has been dedicated in Bucharest, Rumania, by the one-thousand member Hungarian-speaking Lutheran congregation. The total number of Rumanian, Hungarian and German speaking Lutherans in Rumania is over 200,000.

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Pastor Christopher Polson of Betul, Madhya Pradesh, India, has been appointed to the staff of the Department of World Mission of the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva. He is the first federation staff member from a "younger church". The World Mission department will now annually appoint an Asian or an African to gain experience on its staff.

\* \*

Dr. Hermann Ullmann, joint founder of "The Lutheran World", official publication of the Lutheran World Federation, and a well-known figure in Protestant journalism, died suddenly during a visit to Scandinavia, at the age of 73. Dr. Ullmann, who had been blind for some years, lived recently in Basle, Switzerland.

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The Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, will begin admitting women students next autumn, making it the second of eleven Episcopal seminaries in the United States to open its doors to women candidates for the degree of bachelor of divinity. Dean John Bowen Coburn commented: "We are attempting to see that women who are giving full-time service to the church have an opportunity to receive the same high quality of theological education as do the men." The dean emphasized that the decision in no way affected the rule against women serving as ordained priests of the church.

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Dr. Nicolaas van Schouwenburg, director of the Press Bureau of the Netherlands Reformed Church at The Hague, has died at the age of 55, following a heart attack. As president of the "European Study Group on Protestant Information", he was widely known and respected outside his own country. He was deeply concerned for Christian unity, and the approach to city-dwellers outside the churches.

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"St. Hedwigsblatt", paper of the Roman Catholic diocese of Berlin circulating in the East, has been forced to cancel distribution of an issue containing a Lenten letter from the Bishop of Berlin, Dr. Julius Döpfner, on "The Christian Family Today". The editors were ordered to publish a reply to the letter issued by the Press Department of the DDR government. E.P.S., Geneva

### Special Report

#### East Java Church Pioneers Family Work in Moslem Area

The Church of East Java has begun a bold experiment to create interest in Christian home and family life in a part of Asia where most of the population belongs to Islam.

The Church's committee on Home and Family Life has been established as a result of visits from Miss Irma Highbaugh, staff worker in East Asia for the International Missionary Council, and a pioneer in the field for many years. Four men and five women on the committee are following up Dr. Highbaugh's methods of demonstrating the reality of the Christian family in action.

The aim of the work done, according to Mrs. Kartini K. Bezoen, the full-time secretary of the new committee, is to show how the Indonesian family can become a good Christian family without shedding all its distinctively Eastern customs and the courtesies and restraints that determine the style of family life under the Moslem "adat" or custom, built up within Moslem tradition.

"There are some customs under the 'adat' that are against Christianity," says Mrs. Bezoen. "Others can be kept."



Problems of boy-girl relationships that are discussed in the West come up in different forms in East Java. The committee finds that mixed marriages between Christians and Moslems are frequent, in spite of the advice the Church gives against them. "What do Christians say, though," asked Mrs. Bezoen, "when such marriages take place?" She describes attempts being made to instruct young Christians in their own faith in such a way that it can be explained to their life partners in marriage.

Lectures for young people about to be married are being given. A new magazine, which was started in March, 1957, appears quarterly and deals with these and other family questions. Funds for beginning the magazine came from the proceeds of eight years' collections in the Indonesian churches in February on the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Mrs. Bezoen has so far not observed any critical reaction to the experiments from the side of Islam, although many Moslem women have shown interest. "They think what we have to show them might improve their status, and they do not get clear guidance about educating their children from their own Moslem rules," she said. One member of the committee is a Moslem woman doctor, and the "progressive" Moslems are drawn to its work.

Divorce is easier in Moslem society. So far the committee has not worked intensively on the problem of divorce, but is compiling materials on Moslem standards made available through the Moslem Department of the Indonesian government's Ministry of Religious Affairs. "Formerly Moslem women did not feel the prevalence of divorce as being an offence against their status," Mrs. Bezoen remarked, "but now, as with polygamy, they compare their lot with the comparative stability of the Christian family, and do not take things so easily. Moslem husbands," she pointed out, "tend nowadays to prefer divorce and the taking of a new wife to polygamy. This naturally makes women sympathetic toward Christianity and the Christian standard."

One of the customs that has been used by the new committee in its work and taken up with enthusiasm among the women is "arisan" - the practice of lending money mutually to improve housekeeping. Groups of about twenty families in a neighbourhood set aside one day in the month when they fast in a selected home, talk and share ideas about the upkeep and decoration of the house, and subsequently share the money saved by abstaining from food. If twenty families take part the sharing is done in a twenty-months' cycle, and each family reaps the benefit of the savings of the whole group once.

The money gained is spent on such items as furniture and hangings. "But," said Mrs. Bezoen, "this idea, which was an initiative of the women, has become an inter-office practice for men's lunches! Sometimes, because they want items for their offices, the men keep the money the women would like to contribute for the home! Then the women have to borrow to keep the cycle going...."

The work begun in East Java will now be extended to other parts of Indonesia. There are plans for a national home and family life festival. Local festivals, using music composed in Indonesia and words written to express the spirit of the people, have already been held in Surabaya, Malang and many cities of Central Java. Crafts, cooking, sewing, family prayers, baby welfare and child care, all aspects of family life, are being seen in a new way in the light of Christian faith.

E.P.S., Geneva